

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RETIREMENT OF DOREEN DOTZLER, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE OFFICE OF OFFICIAL REPORTERS

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Doreen Dotzler, the Deputy Chief of the Office of Official Reporters, as she retires after twenty-three years of service to the House in the Office of the Clerk.

A Minnesota native, Doreen first came to Congress in 1998, working as a House stenographer covering committee assignments for the Clerk's Office. From 2001 to 2014, she served as a stenographer on the House Floor, and then transitioned to a Senior Official Reporter Position before taking on her current role in 2019. Among a great many other responsibilities, over the last seven years, Doreen has read every single word spoken on the House Floor, and over her career she has borne witness to countless historic moments in this chamber. It is in no small part because of her dedication, her knowledge of Congressional procedure, and her attention to detail that the daily CONGRESSIONAL RECORD over her tenure has been consistently accurate and reliable.

After previously delaying her retirement to extend her public service, Doreen leaves her post this year after a distinguished tenure in support of the House and its work. This institution and the American people it serves have greatly benefitted from her work, and I hope all of my colleagues will join me in extending my heartfelt thanks to Doreen and wishing her and her husband Terry and their family the very best as she retires.

CONGRATULATING CAMAS HIGH SCHOOL'S GIRLS SOCCER TEAM FOR WINNING THE WASHINGTON STATE 4A CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Camas High School's girls soccer team for winning the Washington state 4A championship, the program's third state title and second in five years. The COVID-19 pandemic limited many of our prep athletes from competing during the 2020 season, yet high school athletes like the girls on the Camas soccer team have demonstrated the ability to adapt and persevere in these competitions. For the undefeated Papermakers, that perseverance has paid off in a big way.

Competing in prep sports is a wonderful opportunity to learn lessons in discipline, focus,

team play, work ethic, and comradery. Winning a state title is a momentous achievement this team can be proud of for the rest of their lives, and I have confidence they will find success using the lessons they learned while competing in soccer. Go Papermakers.

HONORING LT. COL. BEN JACKMAN

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Ben Jackman, Battalion Commander of the 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.

Originally from Princeton, N.J., Lt. Col. Jackman has an elite pedigree from our nation's premier military institutions. After graduating from West Point, he completed Ranger School and served multiple deployments, first in Korea and subsequently in Iraq. In between tours abroad, he attended the Command and General Staff College and the Advanced Military Studies Program at Fort Leavenworth, before deploying to Afghanistan. In the almost 20 years that Lt. Col. Jackman has worn the uniform, he has earned multiple awards and decorations, including the Ranger Tab, the Combat Infantryman and Expert Infantryman Badges, the Bronze Star Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters.

In short, Lt. Col. Jackman is an officer's officer. He sets the standard for the other battalion commanders and officers around him—which is why, when the mission to safeguard the airport in Kabul demanded our nation's best, Lt. Col. Jackman stepped into the breach. He came face to face with a chaotic, dangerous situation on the ground, full of risk for both the Afghans crowding the gates and the troops responsible for guarding them. The mission demanded equal parts strategic knowledge of perimeter security as well as the human skills to determine who could get through.

The mission brought out the best of our nation's servicemen and women. It had them give up sleep and comfort to help load the sick, the elderly, and small children onto planes scheduled to depart. It required stamina and grit, and it involved sacrifice—11 Marines, an Army soldier and a Navy corpsman who gave their lives defending our allies.

Through it all, Lt. Col. Jackman is the reason that our group of more than 100 Afghans was able to safely make it inside the airport gates. His bravery and his command spared them from the danger they faced to life and limb.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Lt. Col. Ben Jackman for his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For the profound dif-

ference that he has made in the lives of hundreds, if not thousands of individuals who are now safe, and for his actions that are in keeping with the highest traditions of our military and our nation, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

INITIATING A POSITIVE AND PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE OROMO COMMUNITY OF MINNESOTA AND THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, the ongoing civil conflict in Ethiopia is inflicting terrible suffering on the Ethiopian people of all ethnic groups. The mass killing of civilians, the violence against women, blatant human rights abuses, and displacement of nearly 2 million people are all the consequences of the Ethiopian government's brutal use of military force earlier this year. Now a civil war is raging among armed groups organized along ethnic lines that threatens the lives of millions of innocent civilians and has the potential to destabilize all of East Africa.

In Minnesota, we are fortunate to be home to the largest community of Oromo-Americans in the U.S. and quite possibly the largest Oromo community outside of Ethiopia. I am honored to represent many Oromo-American constituents, but I can say they are suffering because their family and friends in Ethiopia have for years been enduring violence, repression, and human rights abuses by the current government, and preceding Ethiopian governments as well.

Yesterday, my office hosted a direct dialogue between the leaders of the Oromo Community of Minnesota and representatives of the U.S. State Department's Africa Bureau led by Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (PDAS) Ervin Massinga. The dialogue was an opportunity for the President of the Oromo Community of Minnesota, Ms. Leyla Abawari, and her colleagues to directly share their perspectives, concerns, and recommendations for U.S. diplomatic engagement in Ethiopia, as well as elevate the political and humanitarian issues facing the people of Oromia.

The Oromo-American representatives voiced their strong desire for ongoing U.S. diplomatic action with the goals of achieving peace, respect for human rights, democratic political freedoms, the release of political prisoners, and a humanitarian response that alleviates the horrible human suffering faced by the Oromo and all innocent Ethiopians caught in this conflict.

I applaud the State Department's diplomatic efforts in Ethiopia despite facing a very challenging situation and I know the Biden Administration is committed to continuing to work

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

tirelessly to achieve peace. I am deeply appreciative of PDAS Massinga's willingness to hear the concerns of the Minnesota Oromo community and respond with direct, respectful, and honest answers.

My long relationship with the Oromo community of Minnesota is built on respect for their many contributions the success of our state and country. I will continue to work closely with the community to ensure that their relatives and friends in Oromia, and all of Ethiopia, can live in peace with the hope and opportunity for the future.

I include in the RECORD the following letter from the Oromo Community of Minnesota outlining their views on the situation in Ethiopia and the conditions faced by the Oromo people.

COMMENTARY ON THE CIVIL WAR IN ETHIOPIA  
(Oromo Community of Minnesota)

Ethiopia is fast approaching state collapse. The civil wars raging in the north, south and western parts of the country leaving hundreds and thousands of dead, injured, and displaced. The war has featured gruesome human rights abuses, massacre, sexual assault, and substantial humanitarian crisis. The media and international diplomacy have been preoccupied by the war in the northern that involves Ethiopian federal government and allied forces from Amhara, Eritrean forces one side and TPLF/TDF on the other side, the preceding and equally damaging civil war in Oromia has not been spotlighted.

For the last three years western Oromia and southern Oromia have been under military command post by supplanting civil administration. Ethiopian government tried to justify the imposition of military as counter insurgency measures against OLA. As Amnesty and other human rights organizations have documented Ethiopian securities have committed egregious human rights abuses, extrajudicial killings, rape, torture, mass arrests, burning village and displacement under the guise law enforcement measures. Most of the victims have been students, farmers, members of opposition parties, families of opposition parties and government employees. So far government have neither investigated nor prosecuted the perpetrators of crimes.

Although the situation in Ethiopia continues to be exceedingly volatile, we would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the United States government for taking important steps in pressuring the Ethiopian government and fighting parties to hold a national dialogue. We support the administration's decision to impose sanctions on those responsible for human rights violations. It is imperative that the warring parties, including the Ethiopian National Defense Forces, the Tigray People's Liberation Front, and Amhara regional forces, and other armed groups cease all hostilities, protect human rights, allow unfettered humanitarian access, and cooperate with independent investigations of human right abuses being perpetrated against civilians. Oromos represent over 40 per-

cent of the population, therefore, play a significant role in bringing lasting peace to Ethiopia's problems. It is becoming more evident that the country continues to face a complete destabilization, and the opportunity to take decisive action is closing rapidly. We feel addressing the following significant factors in the context of the entire country is essential to address the crisis.

The Oromia region is being devastated by the conflict, just this week, the nation is mourning the loss of Members of Karrayyu Gadaa leadership (the council of an Oromo sacred Institution who were massacred during a prayer ceremony 'Waaq Kadhaa' by government forces on December 1st, 2021.

State-sanctioned violence in Western Oromia: Under the pretext of fighting armed groups, government security forces themselves have been the perpetrators carrying out extrajudicial killings, rape, and human rights abuses (see: 2020 Amnesty Report).

Drone attacks are continuously being carried out in Wollo and Wollega, claiming thousands of lives. These drones are being supplied by the Turkish, UAE, and Iran governments.

Lack of humanitarian access to areas of Guji, Borana, Bale, Wollega, and Wollo that continue to be affected by the conflict in the Oromia region.

The detention of the prominent Oromo Political opposition leaders—Following the assassination of beloved Oromo singer and activist Haacaaluu Hundeessaa, key political leaders and government opposition figures such as Jawar Mohammed, a former Minnesotan resident, and Bekele Gerba was imprisoned in the capital, Addis Ababa. Currently, more than 100,000 Oromo youth prisoners across the country are held without due process of law.

An ongoing communications blackout in Oromia

Mass imprisonment and ethnic profiling of the Oromo people

Lack of freedom of expression (media) and association

The profiling and detention of American citizens of Oromo origin in Ethiopia. Recently, Mr. Yonas Gudata, a Minnesotan resident, has been unlawfully detained by the Ethiopian government after traveling there to visit his sick father.

The Forced recruitment of child soldiers in the Ethiopian army—Children as young as eight are being forced into conscription. They are being placed on the frontlines to be shielded from ENDF soldiers.

The Rhetoric by regime supporter diasporas despite being pro-regime voices, they continue to undermine the pressure by the U.S. and advocate for the Ethiopian regime to continue their brutality against civilians across the country unchecked. There is clear hate speech by encouraging the regime for mass arrests and violence against civilians.

The unnoticed act of those who hold U.S. citizenship, but are involved in

the act of armed conflict, and the promotion of a complete annihilation of other nationalities, mainly Oromos and Tigrayans.

With communications blackouts throughout the country and the lack of independent press, the regime is using disinformation and propaganda to fuel violence, hide what is happening, and create confusion. Pro-regime forces online are going after international journalists and academics discussing or covering the ongoing crises.

Conflict in Benishangul-Gumuz Region: Violence in the Metekkel Zone in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region in western Ethiopia has intensified over possession and control of its fertile and resource-filled land. This conflict has led to incidents of intercommunal violence—between

historically marginalized indigenous populations of the region and others who have settled there. As the Amhara Regional State tries to expand its domain, claim the land, and displace the indigenous peoples, the conflict has escalated. PM Abiy Ahmed is repeating a call for Amhara security forces and militias to be involved, raising concerns that even more civilians will be killed and harmed. A report by the UNHCR indicates that thousands of people from Metekkel fled to South Sudan to escape the conflict (see: Voice of America—English and Foreign Policy).

War in Tigray: The war in Tigray that began November 4, 2020, continues. Establishing accountability for mass atrocities and war crimes committed at the hands of Ethiopian National Defense Forces, Eritrean soldiers, and Amhara militias and unimpeded humanitarian access to all affected by these hostilities.

Sudan-Ethiopia border conflict: Ethiopia and Sudan are currently escalating disputes over the control of the "al-fashqa triangle", an area of fertile farming land. According to the UN, Sudanese Armed Forces, Ethiopian National Defense Forces, including Amhara militia, and Eritrean forces are deployed around the Barkhat settlement in Greater Fashaga. Clashes have been reported since early March (see: Bloomberg).

Dam dispute between Ethiopia, Egypt, and Sudan: The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), located in the Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State, has been under construction since 2011. It remains a contentious project among the three countries because of competing interests to provide cheap electricity and protect the fresh water supply from the Nile. Despite negotiations that have lasted years and include the U.S., Sudan, Egypt, and Ethiopia, they have failed to reach an agreement. In July 2020, Ethiopia began filling the dam's reservoir without a deal, adding to the growing animosity among the three countries. Ethiopia has rejected Sudan's call for outside help in mediating (see: U.S. News).

Crisis of refugees and forcibly displaced persons from Oromia and southern nations of SNNPR and Sidama regional states: On March 7, 2021, hundreds of fleeing migrants who had been forcibly detained in Yemen were killed and injured in deliberate fire at a detention center in Yemen. (See: Human Rights Watch).

It appears that Abiy Ahmed's promises made in 2018 to transition Ethiopia into a democracy has slid back to authoritarianism, causing an influx of people from Oromia, SNNPR, and Sidama regional states to countries in the Middle East seeking refuge, many of which have found themselves stuck in war-torn countries like Yemen. Increasing state brutality against local dissenting populations from special police, local police, army, and Republican guard is mounting dramatically. These circumstances are causing a massive outflow of migrants seeking safety and work. Ethiopia is on the brink of entirely destabilizing. It is critical for a national dialogue, which includes opposition leaders, parties, and stakeholders, to be convened by an independent third party to address and resolve the complex crises ravaging the country. As stated above, the window of time is rapidly closing for the United States to leverage its influence in a way that salvages prospects for democracy in this vitally important country and region.

IN RECOGNITION OF BAY LINK  
MANUFACTURING AND THEIR  
EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE TO  
NORTHEAST WISCONSIN

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to extend my sincere appreciation to the Bay Link Manufacturing team at Green Bay West High School for constructing an American Flag pull-up bar for display.

Bay Link Manufacturing is a manufacturing learning lab located in West High School that is used to immerse students in real-world experiences through completing projects for local companies in the areas of welding, machine fabrication, and metals. Bay Link Manufacturing began when the Green Bay Area Public School District recognized that our future depends on creating a highly-skilled workforce to sustain our communities. In 2014, the Green Bay Area Public School District partnered with Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and the NEW Manufacturing Alliance to create Bay Link Manufacturing.

This outstanding program is available to Juniors and Seniors enrolled throughout the Green Bay Area Public School District and prepares students to attend a two- or four-year college or those who enter the workforce in the field of manufacturing and engineering. Since 2014, the Bay Link students have produced a lengthy portfolio that recognizes their hard work and dedication to their craft. The Bay Link program has completed projects for

companies including Georgia-Pacific, Green Bay Police Department S.W.A.T. team, KI, and ACE Marine. I commend the Bay Link Team for the outstanding services that they have provided to the students at the Green Bay School District and to businesses throughout Northeast Wisconsin.

The Bay Link Manufacturing program provides local employers throughout Northeast Wisconsin with the opportunity to train future employees to ensure that the manufacturing sector continues to grow. The Bay Link Manufacturing program at West High School is a true credit to Northeast Wisconsin. The American Flag pull-up bar they have displayed in my District Office is one step closer to fulfilling my dream of having a pull-up bar in every airport and I want to extend my sincere thanks to the Bay Link Manufacturing students for making that a reality.

Madam Speaker, please join me in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Bay Link Manufacturing team at West High School for their work on the American Flag pull-up bar and all they do for Northeast Wisconsin.

HONORING TERRENCE J. "TERRY"  
BOBROWSKI

**HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK"  
FLEISCHMANN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Terry Bobrowski and recognize a lifetime of service to his community.

For 35 years, Terry served East Tennessee communities through his work at the East Tennessee Development District. Terry led as the Executive Director from February 2002 until his retirement earlier this year. Terry previously served the ETDD as Director of Economic Development. Under Terry's stewardship, the ETDD established a Planning Advisory service that transitioned a major community planning program from the State of Tennessee to provide expert assistance for strategic planning to communities throughout the East Tennessee region. ETDD also maintains a public infrastructure inventory database, provides GIS support to help communities throughout this region make data-driven planning decisions, and assists federal agencies in providing services throughout the region.

Terry has also served his community, lending his leadership to several local and national organizations. Terry served as President and Board Member for the National Association of Development Organizations, past National Chairman of the Rural Transportation Planning Task Force, past Chair of the Tennessee Development District Association, past Board Member of the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee, past Board Member of the Southeast Regional Directors Institute, and is a member of the East Tennessee Industrial Council, the Tennessee Economic Development Council, and the American Economic Development Council.

Terry has been a recognized subject matter expert in rural and regional planning. During his career, Terry has provided testimony to the President's Rural Development Task Force, the U.S. Senate Steering Committee on Rural

Development, and the U.S. House Subcommittee on Transportation & Infrastructure.

It is with great pleasure that I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Terry Bobrowski for his years of service with the East Tennessee Development District and wish him the very best in his retirement.

CONGRATULATING DANIEL QUIN-  
TANA FOR WINNING THE WASH-  
INGTON STATE 1B/2B BOYS  
CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Daniel Quintana of Ilwaco High School for winning the Washington state 1B/2B boys cross country championship. In his senior year, Daniel achieved the rare feat of winning a second consecutive state cross country title.

The COVID-19 pandemic limited many of our prep athletes from competing during the 2020 season, yet high school athletes like Daniel have demonstrated the ability to adapt and persevere in these competitions. For Daniel, that perseverance has paid off in a big way.

Competing in prep sports is a wonderful opportunity to learn lessons in discipline, focus, work ethic, and comradery. Winning a state title is a momentous achievement Daniel can be proud of for the rest of his life, and I have confidence he will find success using the lessons he learned while competing in cross country. Go Fishermen.

HONORING KURT RICHTER

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an essential member of our team who helped us identify—and eventually evacuate—vulnerable Afghans after the fall of Kabul, Dr. Kurt Richter of Michigan State University.

If you read his biography on the university website, you'll learn that Dr. Richter is a nationally-recognized leader of international development implementation. For over 25 years, he's been a dedicated academic, and administrator, devoted to improving lives abroad. His work has taken him around the world to some of the most complex and challenging environments for international development, from Guatemala to Georgia, South Sudan to Tajikistan.

However, it's in his role as director of the Grain Research and Innovation (GRAIN) programs at MSU that he was connected to scientists in Afghanistan working to grow wheat in arid conditions. It's essential research, particularly in a country where shortages of wheat are the primary causes for hunger and economic instability. But when the Taliban began advancing, and finally took Kabul, their connection to an American university and USAID funding put them in grave danger.